

Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 ROME 01766 061914Z

73

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-11 INR-10 LAB-06

NSAE-00 RSC-01 SIL-01 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 L-03 NSC-10

PA-04 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20 USIA-15 SAM-01 HEW-08 SAJ-01

OMB-01 DRC-01 /133 W

----- 082576

R 061655Z FEB 74

FM AMEMBASSY ROME

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3141

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

AMCONSUL MILAN

AMCONSUL NAPLES

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE ROME 1766

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ELAB, PINT, IT

SUBJECT: UNIONS PREVIEW ENCOUNTER WITH GOVERNMENT

1. IN JOINT PRESS CONFERENCE THE THREE SECRETARIES GENERAL (LIMA-CGIL,

STORTI-CISL, VANNI-UIL) OF THE MAJOR ITALIAN UNIONS DISCUSSED UP-
COMING UNION/GOVERNMENT MEETING SET FOR FEBRUARY 8 AND CARRIED OUT
TOUR D'HORIZON ON TRADE UNION AND POLITICAL THEMES.

2. MOST NOTABLE ASPECT OF CONFERENCE WAS ATTEMPT TO DOWNPLAY GENERAL
STRIKE THREAT AND APPEAR RECEPTIVE TO GOVERNMENT INITIATIVES. EFFORT
BY PRESS TO DISCOVER SPECIFIC UNION DEMANDS LARGELY UNSUCCESSFUL.
CGIL SECRETARY GENERAL LAMA SAID DISCUSSION OF PARTICULARS WOULD
VIOLATE GOOD FAITH WITH GOVERNMENT AND THAT ISSUE SHOULD BE DISCUSSED
WITH GOVERNMENT FIRST. THIS POSTURE OF COURSE ELIMINATED DISCUSS-

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 ROME 01766 061914Z

ION OF ANY POSSIBLE SPECIFIC NON-NEGOTIABLE DEMANDS. ALL THREE

LEADERS FOCUSED ON INFLATION AND NEED TO PROTECT WORKER INCOME. LAMA SAID THAT WHILE UNIONS COULD NOT RENOUNCE OVERALL STRATEGY COMPRISING INFER ALIA SOCIAL REFORMS AND INVESTMENT IN THE SOUTH, THE NEED NOW IS FOR REASONABLE PRICE POLICY. VANNI EMPHORIZED THAT UNIONS STILL OPPOSED A GENERAL WAGE INCREASE AND HE FOCUSED ON NEED TO IMPROVE THE NATIONAL COST OF LIVING ESCALATOR PROVISION. REITERATING UNION WILLINGNESS TO MEET GOVERNMENT HALFWAY, LAMA STATED UNION PROGRAM WAS NOT "MAXIMALIST" AND UNIONS WERE PREPARED TO ACCEPT GOVERNMENT PROPOSALS EVEN IF PARTIAL AND GRADUAL, BUT SOME ACTION NECESSARY.

3. ALL THREE LEADERS MINIMIZED A GENERAL STRIKE AS THREAT TO THE GOVERNMENT AND INTIMATED THAT STRIKE MIGHT NOT EVEN BE CALLED. VANNI SAID THAT THE OUTCOME OF THE GOVERNMENT-UNION MEETING WAS ONLY ONE ELEMENT TO CONSIDER IN CALLING A GENERAL STRIKE AND LAMA ADDED HE PERSONALLY HOPED GOVERNMENT WOULD NOT FALL. THE CGIL NEVER PROPOSED TO STRIKE AGAINST THE GOVERNMENT, ACCORDING TO LAMA, BUT HAD LOOKED UPON IT ONLY AS A MEANS TO HELP RESOLVE PROBLEMS. STORTI STRESSED THAT THE POLITICAL PARTIES AND PARLIAMENT MUST TAKE RESPONSIBILITY FOR WEAKNESS OF RUMOR GOVERNMENT AND THEY, NOT UNIONS, WOULD BE RESPONSIBLE IF IT FELL.

4. COMMENT: UNION SOFT LINE EXPRESSED AT PRESS CONFERENCE MAY BE PARTIALLY DUE TO UNION CONCERN THAT GOVERNMENT COLLAPSE IN FACE OF CURRENT PROBLEMS CANNOT BE EXCLUDED (ROME'S 1669.) LEADERS MADE CLEAR THAT A FALL OF THE RUMOR GOVERNMENT NOW WOULD ONLY AGGRAVATE ITALY'S PROBLEMS. VERBAL RETREAT ON THE GENERAL STRIKE QUESTION IS DUE IN PARTICULAR TO CISL RELUCTANCE TO GO ALONG WITH A PUSH FOR A STRIKE WHICH MIGHT CONSTITUTE A THREAT TO THE GOVERNMENT DESPITE ANY LABOR DISCLAIMERS AS TO INTENT. CISL MAJORITY AND MINORITY HAVE SHOWN RECENT SIGNS OF MODERATING THEIR

INTERNAL POLEMIC WHILE DEVELOPING A FRUITFUL CISL DIALOGUE WITH THE DC. VOLPE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: GOVERNMENT REFORM, LABOR RELATIONS, LABOR UNIONS, COST OF LIVING WAGE ADJUSTMENT, LABOR STRIKES, POLITICAL SITUATION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 06 FEB 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: golinofr
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974ROME01766
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: ROME
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740252/aaaabwix.tel
Line Count: 95
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: golinofr
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 27 MAR 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <27 MAR 2002 by martinml>; APPROVED <31 MAY 2002 by golinofr>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: UNIONS PREVIEW ENCOUNTER WITH GOVERNMENT
TAGS: ELAB, PINT, IT
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005